LETTERS@METRO.US

ROFL ABOUT DOUBLE RAINBOWS AGAIN {page 23}

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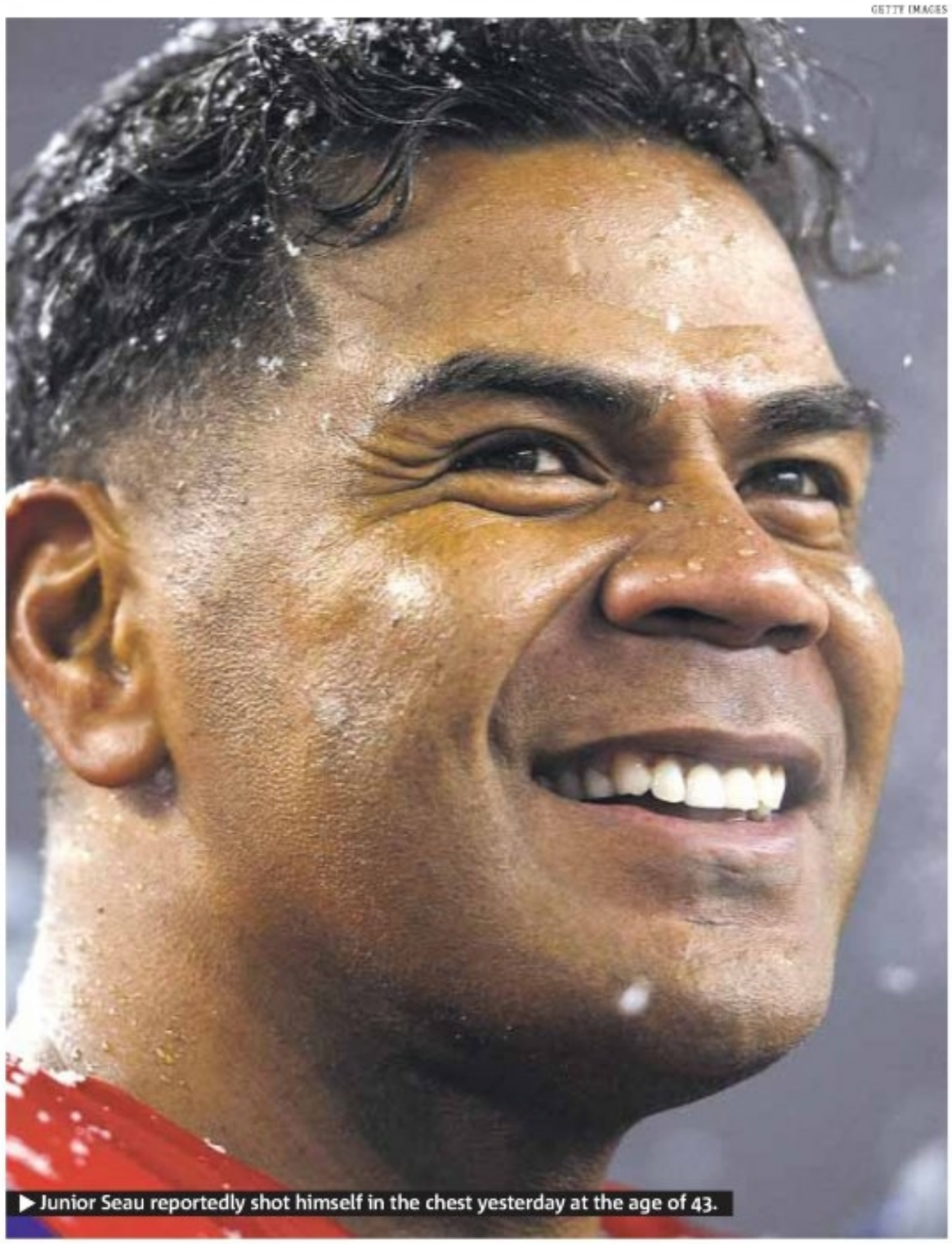
BOSTON
Thursday, May 3, 2012

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Junior Seau reportedly shot himself in the chest yesterday at the age of 43.

Seau death reopens talk on effects of concussions

Did head injuries of 20-year career contribute to reported suicide of former Pats linebacker? Startling number of football players dying at young age {page 25}

Metropolitik

Mitt Romney to gays: Go work somewhere else

Republican hired proud gay conservative, then left him to wither after far-right attacks
Bigots win this round {page 07}

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Sox tickets at new low

Red Sox are at the bottom of the division and so are prices Tickets cheaper than water? Believe!

For the last few years it's been as elusive as a parking spot in South Boston in the winter: a Red Sox ticket you can pay for with spare change.

While a below-face value ticket is not an impossible find, a ticket that costs less than a Fenway Frank that you don't have to buy from a scalper after the game has already started is nearly unheard of.

Tickets available through online resellers like StubHub and Ace Ticket for last night's game against the Oakland Athletics were selling for below face value well before the game. The prices dropped as low as $3 for outfield grandstand as time ticked closer to first pitch. Those seats are normally $30.

"Wow," said a surprised Amanda Judd as she snapped pictures outside of Fenway Park with her husband. The couple bought their field box seats for last night's game well in advance.

"It's a good thing," said Chris Judd. "People that couldn't afford to come to Fenway to see a game can now. It opens it up to everybody."

Fenway has been near or at the top of the list of the ballparks with the most expensive ticket prices in recent years. A survey by Team Marketing Report said that the average price for a nonpremium seat at the park this year was more than $53, making Fenway the park with the most expensive ticket average.

Joellen Ferrer, a spokeswoman for StubHub, said that demand for Sox tickets is up, but that it started climbing just 10 days ago.

While the Sox are struggling to pull themselves out of last place in their division, so too are the ticket prices.

While the normally $30 outfield grandstand tickets cost only $3 last night, they were selling on Ace Ticket for $9 for the May 14 game against Seattle.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The cost of a Fenway Frank has increased to $5 from the $4 shown in this file photo, but both prices are higher than the cost of a ticket to last night's game.

By the numbers

$3.99
Price of one bleacher section ticket on StubHub yesterday afternoon, available about 8 hours before game time.

$12
Face value of an upper bleacher ticket

$4
Price of bottled water at Fenway

$5
Price of a Fenway Frank at the park

$8.25
Price of a domestic draft beer at Fenway

$40
Price of parking in a lot near Boylston and Ipswich streets for the game

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Pricing theory

BOSTON. While a spokeswoman for StubHub would not comment on the ticket price variation because of the company's relationship with the Red Sox and Major League Baseball, fans had their own theory.

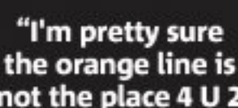
"It seems like they vary depending on the weather and how they are playing," said Chris Judd, of Hardwick, while standing outside Fenway yesterday. "If they were winning every game the ticket prices might be a little different." METRO

In the news

1

Northeastern University will be the first college in Boston to hold its commencement ceremony, sending off its 2012 class, this week. On Friday, former Secretary of State Colin Powell will address students and their families as he is presented with one of six honorary degrees. METRO

Today's local tweet



"I'm pretty sure the orange line is not the place 4 U 2 B clipping yr toenails & razoring yr eyebrows #MBTA

@MAI_KATE_RAI WHO APPARENTLY HASN'T LEARNED THAT SOME PEOPLE WILL NEVER LEARN

Brookline man crashes car into car dealership

ALLSTON. A Brookline man who allegedly led police on a car chase earlier this year allegedly crashed a display car inside a dealer's showroom yesterday.

Ender Durgut, 39, was ordered held without bail after he pleaded not guilty during his arraignment.

Durgut allegedly entered the Herb Chambers on Brighton Avenue at 10:30 a.m., saying he wanted to buy a car.

Authorities said that he got in a 2012 Toyota Venza, started the engine and crashed into another showroom car, as well as a desk and wall.

Durgut fled, but police caught up with him shortly after.

He allegedly led police on a chase along Route 9 in Newton in March. METRO

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The showroom

Man possibly headed to Mass. is arrested in La.

MASSACHUSETTS. A Florida man who allegedly shot his family and was believed to be headed to Massachusetts to kill officials from his former company was caught yesterday.

Kevin Satterfield, 55, was wanted by police in Florida for killing his wife and his daughter's boyfriend and shooting his pregnant daughter.

Satterfield was reportedly fired from Framingham-based Cumberland Farms in June. He worked as a manager at several of the convenience stores in Florida.

A family member told the Orlando Sentinel that he called his mother and told her he was driving to Framingham to kill executives from the company. He was caught in a Louisiana hotel at about 1 a.m. METRO

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Two heads are better than one

BOSTON. Two of the world's biggest powerhouse educational institutions are uniting to give students a chance to get a better online education.

Harvard University and MIT announced the launch of "edX" yesterday, a Web-based nonprofit initiative to offer free, college-level courses.

The two schools have each tossed $30 million into the project, which will be run by a nonprofit organization based in Cambridge.

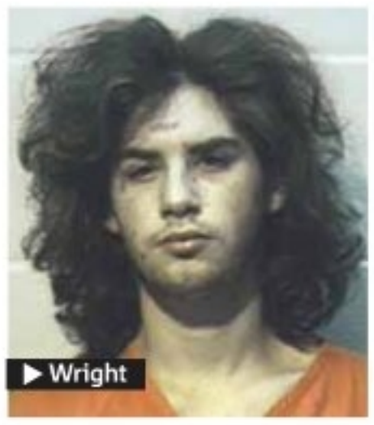
The first series of courses should be up and running by the fall and will include five options, according to a press release.

The classes will offer video lessons, embedded quizzes, student-ranked questions and answers, immediate feedback and online labs. METRO/SA

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ This fall you can join these students at MIT, sort of.

DA: Son killed mom, woman, dumped bodies at local school



▶ Wright

The son of one of the dead women dumped behind a Saugus elementary school was arrested Tuesday night as he tried to cross the United States border into Canada.

Joseph Wright, 23, of Lynn, is the son of Donna Breau, 54, the Essex district attorney's office said yesterday.

During his arraignment as a fugitive from justice in Maine, Wright waived extradition and will return to Massachusetts to face murder charges. He was expected to be arraigned today in Lynn.

Wright allegedly tried to cross the border from Maine just after 6 p.m. Tuesday. He was brought to a secondary screening area and fled. He was soon caught by Canadian authorities.

Authorities accused Wright of murdering his mother and another elderly woman found dead behind a Saugus school Tuesday morning. It has been reported that the other woman is Breau's mother, but that has not been confirmed.

Autopsies were not completed by press time and the exact cause of death was not released.

A school worker found the women on the ground behind the Lynnhurst school at about 6:45 a.m. Tuesday.

The women were found with "obvious signs of foul play," but authorities would not say exactly how the women were killed.

Essex DA Jonathan Blodgett called the murders a "horrific and gruesome crime."

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Warrant issued for T spitter

BOSTON. MBTA Police have identified a man who allegedly spit on a bus driver on April 18, and they have issued a warrant for his arrest.

According to reports, a warrant has been issued for Raphael Guzman, 21, charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery on a public employee.

He is accused of spitting in a T driver's face on the Rt. 28 bus. METRO

Wrong-way train raises questions

ATTLEBORO. Riders were delayed along the Attleboro line Monday night after Amtrak workers allegedly sent a commuter rail train down the wrong tracks.

According to the Herald, MBTA interim General Manager Jon Davis called for a full report from Amtrak on what led to the bad directions.

Amtrak is conducting an investigation into the mishap, which caused 20 minutes in delays.

A T official told the Herald the train engineer noticed his train was headed down the wrong tracks after receiving a dispatch from Amtrak, the report stated. METRO

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Could mobile retail trucks be on the move?

Green Street Vault will meet with city about new licenses Officials eye ways to allow selling on the go

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Derrick Cheung, left, and Howard Travis of Green Street Vault make themselves comfortable in their Newbury Street pop-up store — their home until new permitting can be worked out.

City officials may clear the road for retailers wanting to sell products, like clothing, out of trucks.

According to Susan Elsbree, spokesperson for the Boston Redevelopment Authority, the Hub is keen to discussing the prospect of allowing entrepreneurs to hawk apparel from mobile shops after an outpouring of support surfaced for Green Street Vault, a clothing truck on four wheels seen around Back Bay.

"We are bringing in stakeholders from the retail truck community, and we are also meeting separately with some business communities in neighborhoods to talk about this new, emerging type of business," she said.

Last month, city officials told Derrick Cheung, co-owner of Green Street Vault, to stop selling products because there are no permits for retail trucks in the Hub.

But now, that could change.

"They are doing fact-finding, but I think it will go well. This is pretty much exactly what we wanted," said Cheung.

Elsbree said the BRA will also look at the current hawkers and peddlers license to try and revamp the regulations.

"[We are] absolutely willing to work with the [retail truck] community. ... We have a proven track record with what we have done with food trucks."
SUSAN ELSBREE

The current license, which kept Green Street Vault from continuing its sales in the Back Bay and around Newbury Street, dates back to 1908, according to Elsbree.

"It's out of date. ... It's still not reflective of some new entrepreneurial retail businesses we are seeing in the city," she said, adding that the BRA is "absolutely" open to working with the retail truck community — something that makes Cheung optimistic.

"Change is going to happen, and that's an amazing feeling," he said.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Popping up on Newbury Street

While the owners of Green Street Vault are stalled from selling shirts from their truck, they will set up shop on Newbury Street in pop-up style.

"The Green Street Jungle," will run for eight weeks and will feature late hours, weekly events, live music and an art gallery.

The owners of Green Street vault teamed up with Annie Mulz to host the limited-time retail spot.

The pop-up opens May 5. METRO/SA

News in brief

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Boston Common fountain reopens

BOSTON. After about a year, the Brewer Fountain in the Boston Common is finally spouting water again. The completion of the $643,000 restoration project was celebrated by city leaders yesterday. Paths around the fountain were also resurfaced, trees were planted and seating was installed, including benches. METRO

Mass. has more in Mass than RI

MASSACHUSETTS. Step aside Ocean State, because the Bay State is now considered the most heavily Catholic place in the U.S.

According to the Providence Journal, data from the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies showed that the number of Massachusetts residents belonging to Catholic parishes has outranked those in Rhode Island.

According to reports, the 2010 Religion Census found that Massachusetts now has a higher percentage of Catholics.

The littlest state saw a 14 percent dip since 2000. METRO

No field of dreams for teen

BOSTON. A Haverhill teen was arrested Tuesday night after he allegedly jumped on to the field of Fenway Park.

Eric Freitas, 18, was charged with disturbing a public assembly and being disorderly, police said.

He was arrested in the game's later innings, at about 9:15 p.m. METRO

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Will China keep its pledge to protect dissident Chen?

Chen Guangcheng leaves protection of the US embassy amid promises of safety But within hours, reports that he fears for his life paint new picture

JORDAN POUILLE, METRO WORLD NEWS IN BEIJING

▶ In this exclusive photo, Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng is being pushed in a wheelchair yesterday at his Beijing hospital.

Blind Chinese dissident Chen Guangcheng left the U.S. Embassy in Beijing on Wednesday after securing guarantees that he could live in safety with his family in China — but he appeared to quickly have second thoughts.

Under a deal described by U.S. officials, China committed to allow Chen to relocate within the country along with his family and study at a university, an outcome that would have kept him a pivotal figure in China-U.S. relations.

However, within hours of his release to a Beijing hospital and reunion with his wife, Chen gave interviews saying he feared for his life after he learned of the way his wife had been treated — and that he now wants to leave the country.

WRITE TO METRO:
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"He wants to leave and he wants to leave as soon as possible," a CNN reporter said on air, saying he had spoken to Chen for 15 to 20 minutes by telephone and that the activist, who opposed forced abortions in China, felt "let down" by the United States.

Earlier, U.S. officials and Chinese officials said Chen left the embassy of his own free will after days of negotiations between the two governments. U.S. officials said that Chen wanted to remain in China and that he never asked for asylum.

Chen's dramatic escape from house arrest and his flight to the U.S. Embassy have already made him a symbol of resistance to China's shackles on dissent, and the deal struck by Washington and Beijing to have him remain in China would ensure he stays a test case of how tight or loose those restrictions remain.

China angrily accused the United States of meddling and demanded an apology for the way U.S. diplomats handled the case. **REUTERS**

Suicide bombers kill seven after Obama leaves Afghan capital

KABUL. Suicide bombers attacked a compound housing Westerners in Kabul on Wednesday hours after U.S. President Barack Obama signed a security pact during a short visit to a city that remains vulnerable to a resilient insurgency.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack — which involved a car bomb and insurgents disguised as women on the eastern outskirts of the capital — killing seven people, a Gurkha guard and six passersby. It wounded 17 others.

The Taliban said it was in response to Obama's visit and to the strategic partnership deal he signed with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, a pact that sets out a long-term U.S. role. **REUTERS**

Earth to gays: GOP doesn't want you

Metropolitik

BRAYDEN SIMMS

POLITICAL WORLDLINESS FOR AN IMPOLITE WORLD

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For complaints, suggestions and digital attaboys, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

In case it wasn't already glaringly obvious, the Mitt Romney campaign for presidency has gone ahead and clarified an essential truth of modern U.S. politics: Gays are not welcome in the Republican party.

Hey, don't shoot the messenger! We draw this conclusion only after Romney bowed to far-right anti-gay pressure, allowing staffer Ric Grenell to become another casualty in Mitt's by-any-means-necessary warpath to the White House.

Continuing a trend, the malleable Romney was for Ric Grenell before he was against him. He did, after all, hire the openly gay former Bush staffer as his spokesman on foreign policy and national security — a first for a Republican candidate. But following push back from the far right, Grenell was left to wither on the vine.

Grenell resigned from Team Romney on Tuesday after a month of neglect, during which he was not deployed to comment on relevant issues — like the president's anti-Romney Osama ad. Romney spent that month not commenting on attacks by hateful conservatives over Grenell's gay credentials. (He lost a battle for official recognition of his same-sex partner in the U.N.'s Blue Book Rolodex.)

Never mind that foreign policy has nothing to do with gay rights: The Romneys muzzled Grenell on a conference call last week. Grenell organized the call, as was his job, but was ordered to stay silent.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mitt Romney: He'd love for you to work for him — unless, of course, your sexual preference becomes a political liability.

"My ability to speak clearly and forcefully on the issues has been greatly diminished by the hyper-partisan discussion of personal issues that sometimes comes from a presidential campaign," Grenell told Washington Post writer Jen Rubin.

Grenell continued: "I want to thank Governor Romney for his belief in me and my abilities and his clear message to me that being openly gay was a non-issue for him and his team."

Perhaps it's true that Romney did believe in the strictly conservative yet gay Grenell. If so, it's clear that Romney's beliefs weren't strong enough to stand up to the likes of hate-preacher Bryan Fischer — who, upon hearing of the hire, pounced on Romney's weakness with so-called true conservatives.

"It appears to be a dog-whistle to the homosexual lobby," Fischer said, "a way of saying to them 'I'm with you, not with them.'" He took it even further: "It's certainly not possible that there are no other potential spokesmen available, men who are experts in foreign policy and who, at the same time, honor the institution of natural marriage in their personal lives."

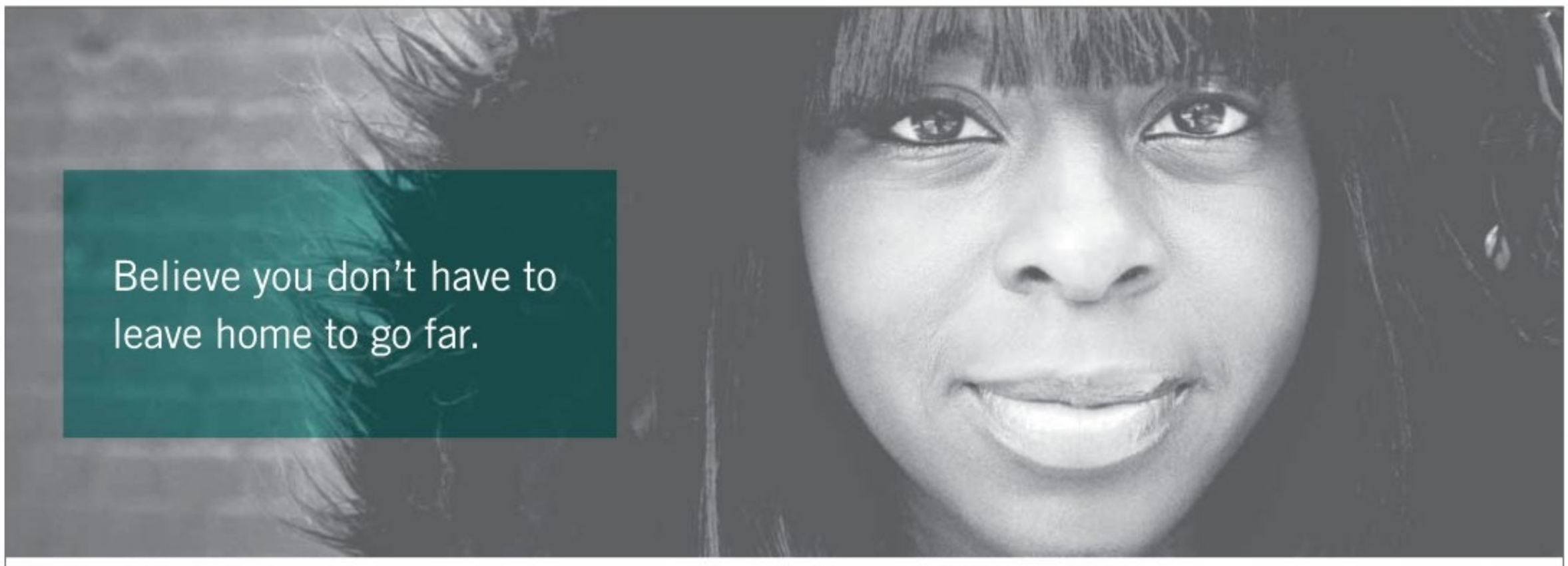
The implications here are sickening. What Fischer asserts above, and what he was, through Romney's need of his coalition, rewarded for, is this line of thinking: In the Republican party, why hire someone who happens to be gay when you can hire someone who isn't? It's a bigot's version of labor law: What, are there no able-bodied straights? The only universe in which these people would consider hiring a gay person is one where he or she is the last available option.

Now Fischer's gloating. "I was kind of pleasantly surprised," he said. "I think Governor Romney is going to be far more careful now."

Just to be clear, Fischer was not alone. In his Washington Update, Tony Perkins argued that because Romney hired a gay man, it undermines Republican leadership. (Apparently Republicans have officially come out against gays?) Dan Gainor at the Media Research Center says the fact that Romney would hire Grenell at all is a clear sign he's not truly conservative. (All conservatives must loathe gays?)

Perhaps not all Republicans think this way. But with Romney so willing to kowtow, what difference does it make? The message is the same: Go work for someone else.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.



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MAURIZIO MALAGOLI/SOLENT NEWS & PHOTO AGENCY

Owls spy with their little eyes

MODENA, ITALY. Amateur photographer and computer professional Maurizio Malagoli captured these little owls looking identically wide-eyed at the camera, after they were startled by an earlier picture being taken. Malagoli was left with this photograph, which shows the birds' yellow eyes in a perfect diagonal line.

● METRO WORLD NEWS

Little owl trivia

- Little owls are sacred in Greek culture. Scientifically known as "Athene noctua," little owls are associated with Athena, Greek goddess of wisdom, who is often featured with them in ancient art; the Greek one-euro coin shows the same little owl design as the silver tetradrachm coin from 2,500 years ago.

60 seconds with ...

Maurizio Malagoli, 36, lives in Moglia, a small village near Mantua, northern Italy.

Where did you capture this stunning image?
In Modena, there is a sanctuary that tends to wounded animals before they are released back into the wild. I arrived there the day some owls were being released. I positioned myself among the trees, wore green camouflage and waited a couple of hours before the owls were close enough to photograph.

For you, what makes owls so unique to photograph?
Following my time at the sanctuary, owls have become my favorite animal, despite the fact that in Italy and elsewhere there is a belief that these creatures bring you bad luck. But I'm not superstitious [laughs].

● ANTHONY JOHNSTON/MWN

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Lovato and Cyrus vie for last 'X Factor' seat

GETTY IMAGES

With **Britney Spears** reportedly set to fill one of the empty judges' panel seats on "The X Factor," it's a starlet face-off for the final slot, since former judges **Paula Abdul** and **Nicole Scherzinger** were kicked off the show after its first season. And according to conflicting reports, it looks like it's down to two former Disney stars. Celebuzz.com reports that executive **Simon Cowell** has been considering **Miley Cyrus** for the spot, while The Hollywood Reporter insists that **Demi Lovato** is close to a deal — and even in the "final negotiations" of securing the job.

I know this sounds, well, crazy, but if the job is to decide who has authentic talent on a national television show, shouldn't it be filled by someone who actually writes her own music and isn't auto-tuned within an inch of her life?

▶ Is it Demi versus Miley for the remaining "X Factor" seat?

Readers respond to Maxwell Drew

Yesterday, I asked what you thought of **Jessica Simpson** naming her daughter **Maxwell Drew**, and the reader consensus is that it's too masculine. Here's a smidgen of your thoughts:

"Sorry, reminds of the pig in the Geico commercials (his name is Maxwell also) and Drew Carey. Way too masculine for a little girl." - Lourdes

"I love the name Maxwell Drew! I mean, if it were for a boy. I like the idea of naming girls with boy names like Kyle and Ryan, but Maxwell is a too manly name in my opinion. I hope she goes by Drew when she gets older." - Libna

"Maxwell Drew is not a name for a girl. Maxine would have been better." - Lynne

"It's a dreadful name for a girl. It's as bad as Harper Seven, Blue Ivy Carter, Apple, etc. I guess I'm a traditionalist!" - Sylvia

"What do I think of the name Maxwell Drew? Well, I am old (52) so two things come to my mind: Coffee and Drew Barrymore!" - Gracie

Talking points

Kutcher brings in the big bucks

With a new deal reportedly in place, **Ashton Kutcher** will be returning for another season of "Two and a Half Men," according to Deadline. For next year's run — the popular sitcom's 10th season — Kutcher will reportedly bring in $700,000 per episode, with co-star **John Cryer** making slightly less than Kutcher and young **Angus T. Jones** earning $300,000 per episode. Each actor signed a one-year contract, sparking speculation that the 10th season could be the show's last.

Beckham has her mom moments

Even famous mother of four **Victoria Beckham** has her not-so-great parenting moments, like the time she left to take eldest son Brooklyn to school — but forgot the kid all together. "I jump in my Range Rover, put the car seat in, put my iPod on — obviously very important — and I drive to school. And then I realize I'd left Brooklyn in the kitchen," Beckham tells Vanity Fair. "I was driving along, talking away, and all the sudden, I looked at the front seat, and I was like, 'S—! S—! I've forgot something!'"

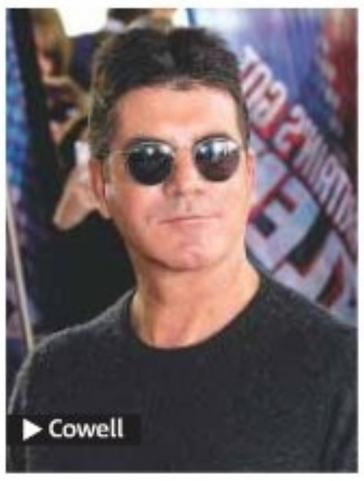
▶ Witherspoon's bump

Witherspoon flaunts her bump

While she hasn't yet made an official announcement about her pregnancy, **Reese Witherspoon** is doing little to hide the obvious. The Oscar-winning actress was spotted out and about in her L.A. neighborhood this week in a thin, clingy purple dress, according to Radar Online. And this past weekend, Witherspoon and husband **Jim Toth** turned heads at the White Hour Correspondents' Dinner in a tight top that accentuated her growing bump.

Cowell: As humble as ever

Simon Cowell may not have wanted to keep **Cheryl Cole** on the U.S. edition of "The X Factor," but he's more than happy to take credit for the success she's had in the U.K. "Even though we went through that pretty horrible period, I could look Cheryl in the eye and say what I did for her in those two years propelled her into a different league," Cowell tells GQ, admitting that while the debacle with the U.S. show may have created some distance between them, he'd still be open to working together again.



▶ Cowell

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Charlie Sheen is having much nicer work experience these days, Paris Hilton has been learning how to relax, Zachary Quinto has some opinions about language and Elizabeth Banks is enjoying a cocktail.

@charliesheen
In my trailer discussing the script w/ Bruce Helford, best showrunner on the planet!

@ParisHilton
Just left @SnoopDogg's studio. Had the best day chilling with his crew. Such good vibes in there.

@ZacharyQuinto
i love "chuffed." i abhor "long in the tooth."

@ElizabethBanks
Ah, Happy Hour. I'm getting swanky with an Old Fashioned

Charlie Sheen

myentertainment

Let's hear it for the girls!

1. Dita Von Teese attended a private dinner celebrating her perfume launch at The Arts Club on Tuesday in London.

2. Chelsea Handler of "Chelsea Lately" attended the E! 2012 Upfront at Gotham Hall on Monday in New York City.

3. Tinsley Mortimer attended the launch party for her new book, "Southern Charm," at Castle & Pierpont on Tuesday in New York City.

4. Diane Sawyer attended a memorial for fellow journalist Mike Wallace, who passed away last month, at Frederick P. Rose Hall at Jazz at Lincoln Center, on Tuesday in New York City.

5. Actress **January Jones** attended The Shops At Target launch party on Tuesday in New York.

6. Singer **Carrie Underwood** visited the Z100 Elvis Duran Morning Show at Z100 Studio on Monday in New York City.

1: DAVE M. BENETT/GETTY IMAGES
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Ships' Registry: The Bahamas and Panama.

Carnival

10 Ways to avenge the box office

COURTESY OF WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

▶ Thor (Chris Hemsworth, left) and Captain America (Chris Evans) lead the way in "The Avengers."

2 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'
Every famous British actor and actress over 60 (save Michael Caine) makes an appearance in this film about retirees who travel to Jaipur, India, to live out their golden years.

3 'The Five-Year Engagement'
Jason Segel and Emily Blunt star in this Judd Apatow-produced comedy as a happily engaged couple who dodge one obstacle after another to get to their wedding day.

4 'Safe'
Never one to appear in a film and not handle some kind of firearm, Jason Statham stars as an ex-cage fighter attempting to save a young girl from the Russian mob.

5 'The Raven'
John Cusack is Edgar Allan Poe on the trail of a serial killer who designs his murders after Poe's stories.

Must-see

'The Avengers'

1 It's all about this comic-book septuple threat this weekend. Sci-fi master-in-chief Joss Whedon directs a bevy of big stars in this tale of Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, Captain America, Nick Fury, Black Widow and Hawkeye joining forces to conquer the evil Loki.

6 'The Pirates! Band of Misfits'
The studio responsible for "Chicken Run" delivers a pirating adventure voiced by Hugh Grant and Salma Hayek.

7 'Think Like a Man'
Steve Harvey's best-selling book, "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man," gets a screen adaptation.

8 'The Lucky One'
Zac Efron plays an Iraqi war vet in search of a woman whose photo was a good luck charm during combat.

9 'To the Arctic'
Meryl Streep narrates this nature documentary about a polar bear and her two cubs making their way through the Arctic wilderness.

10 'The Cabin in the Woods'
This critically praised and long-awaited Joss Whedon horror film features a bunch of teenagers who go camping in said cabin in said woods.

HEIDI PATALANO

TV watch list

'Parks and Recreation'

COMEDY. The death of a Pawnee luminary puts a damper on Leslie's bus tour during the last day of her campaign, especially when she crashes the memorial — literally. **9:30 p.m., NBC**

'Community'

COMEDY. The untimely death of a beloved student sends Britta into action mode, serving as grief counselor to her classmates — the result of which, of course, may require therapy of its own.
8 p.m., NBC

TYLER GOLDEN/NBC

▶ The Pawnee crew deal with death tonight.

'The Big Bang Theory'

COMEDY. The only thing stronger than Howard's geek love for Bernadette may be space — which puts their wedding in jeopardy when his NASA mission gets moved up.
8 p.m., CBS

'American Idol'

REALITY. Please read the following in Ryan Seacrest slow-speak: And. We. Have. Our. Final. Four.
8 p.m., Fox

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mother's day gift guide

Gift guide

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Old World charm meets design magic. Ladies & Gentlemen Superior Servers set, $140, www.shophorne.com

UV rays will not get your mom. HatAttack sun hat, $65, www.hatattack.com

Keep her produce sorted and safe. Mercado farmers market tote, $25, www.quirky.com

Bijoux Heart Parfait gold-plated Swarovski earrings, $450, www.netaporter.com

She can tend to her shrubs in style. Floral gardening tools, $10, www.homegoods.com

C.Wonder wine stopper, $22, www.cwonder.com

Her lazy summer lunches and fancy dinner parties need to start with Lillet's newest aperitif. Lillet Rose, $20

Read more on page 14

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May 6, 2012
Sunday, May 6, 2012
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mother's day gift guide

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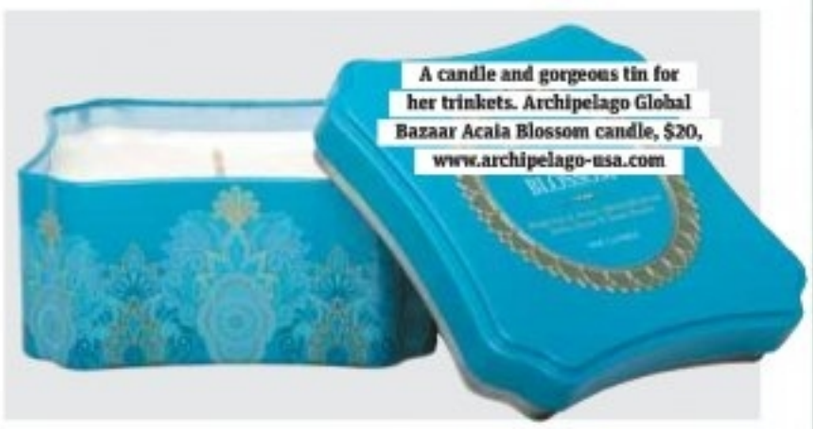

A candle and gorgeous tin for her trinkets. Archipelago Global Bazaar Acaia Blossom candle, $20, www.archipelago-usa.com

Spa-like pampering every day. La Mer The Reparative Body Lotion, $150, www.cremedelamer.com

A little night cap never hurts. Patron XO Cafe Dark Cocoa coffee liqueur, $25, www.patrongift.com

Soft, pretty 100 percent cotton pajamas you'll want to steal during your sleepovers. Julianna Rae Sun Showers Cotton PJs, $100, www.juliannarae.com

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mydating

What not to do in online dating

Think you've mastered the art of romance on the Internet? Make sure you haven't made any of these classic Web-flirting mistakes first

As many of us have learned, online dating is a very different animal from meeting a prospective date in person. Rather than a "come hither" stare from across the bar, it's that first e-mail that can make or break your chances of romance. Many of us fall flat on our faces when it comes to this first entree.

That's why a writer under the assumed name of Ouiser Boudreaux decided to create The A(n)nals of Online Dating — a site in which readers can post the worst online dating emails they've received to have them scored and critiqued by Boudreaux.

"You're not approaching someone in person, so there isn't that immediate rejection, which makes people a lot bolder and makes them say things they would not say face to face," Boudreaux explains of the epidemic of awkward emails. "Another part of the problem is that it's a bunch of people who are lonely and drunk at 3 a.m. and sending out messages."

Quoted:

"You're not approaching someone in person, so there isn't that immediate rejection, which makes people a lot bolder and makes them say things they would not say face to face."
OUISER BOUDREAUX

Through the course of her work, Boudreaux has identified a few gaffes that repeatedly crop up in the submissions she gets. She outlined the worst offenses for us.

People who complain about dating

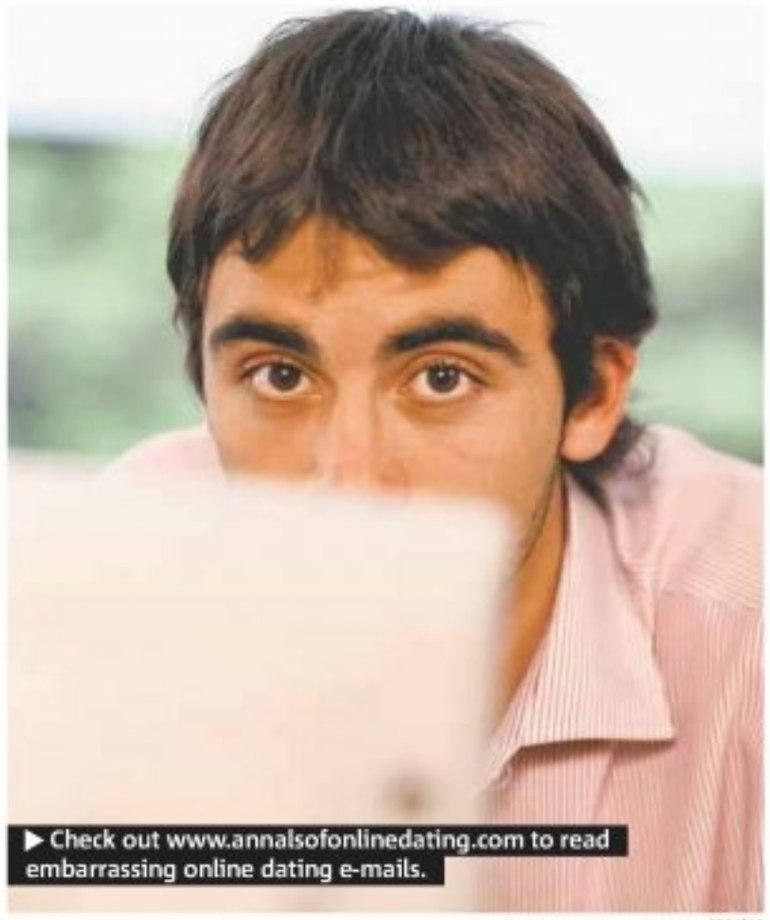
"Mostly [it's men who] complain 'all women are shallow b—es. None of them like nice guys like me. They all want to date a—holes,'" she explains. "If you're putting that on your online dating profile, it's no mystery as to why nobody wants to date you. You seem like a miserable, angry, crotchety man."

People who use tips from the old VH1 show, "The Pickup Artist"

"These dudes have tactics they use to pick up women in bars and they try to translate those tactics online," Boudreaux says. "One of the tactics is to go up to a woman and say something that's vaguely insulting, which doesn't really work as well on the Internet. You just kind of sound like a dick. They call it 'negging.'"

People who think racial fetishes are flattering

"I get a lot of racial fetishizing submissions — especially from Asian women who get [notes] from white guys saying 'I would love to know an Asian woman. I just love exotic Asian beauty,'" Boudreaux laments. "Nothing about their personalities or interests or anything, just, 'Oh, I see that you're Asian. Let's meet.'"



▶ Check out www.annalsofonlinedating.com to read embarrassing online dating e-mails.

CREATAS

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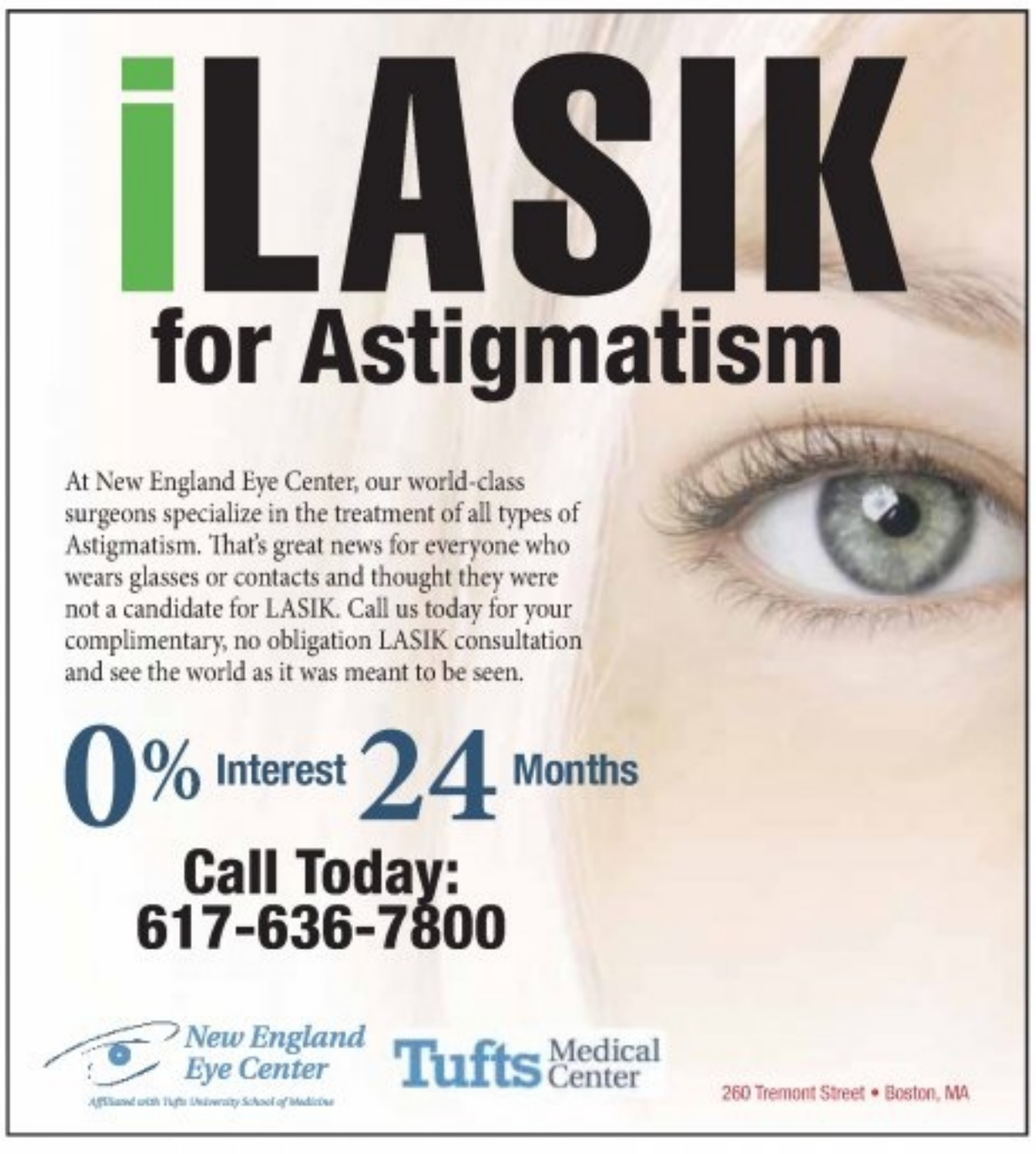
heidi.patalano@metro.us



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Letters

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Occupy back in the news, but why?

RE: "OWS COMEBACK": Why does your paper glorify the Occupy Wall Street movement? It costs cities millions of tax dollars to keep police on overtime to watch OWS rallies. The money could be used to pay for AIDS victims, keep libraries open and provide shelter for homeless people. The Occupy movement pretends to be in favor of the "99 percent" yet all they accomplish is to drain cities of money that could provide vital services for residents.
LEW RITTER, VIA E-MAIL

I find it hard to believe Joshua Tordoff's prediction that the least productive people would do even less than usual on May 1. For example, right now I have no job to stay home from, but at least I'm not destructive like self-styled "job creator" Mitt Romney. My last employer went under through no fault of mine, whereas he, as head of Bain Capital, bought companies and bled many of them to death. **ALAN BROWN, VIA E-MAIL**

If as you say that "Communism has nothing to do with the Occupy movement," then why were there so many signs promoting communism on May Day? I saw a woman with a T-shirt that said "Break the Chains of Capitalism." I told her that communism plus socialism have more chains! If you are unaware of the evil of communism, go out and talk to the Russians (and Jewish people) who risked their lives escaping it. Go to Miami and speak to Cubans who escaped from Castro's regime. Look at North Korea, and what the Red Chinese have done to the Tibetans. Communism is not a catchphrase. It is a real evil. I am really amazed that so many of you Occupy people are ignorant of this.
FRANK GIALLOMBARD, VIA E-MAIL

Go ahead, continue playing off the 1 percent versus 99 percent — otherwise known as class warfare. It is in essence government confiscation of wealth via taxation from the haves to the have nots. Sooner or later, the producers of wealth will be outnumbered by the takers. Those who create wealth and income will eventually go on strike demanding that they be able to keep more of what they earned. The infamous 1 percent already contribute 40 percent of all taxes paid, while 46 percent pay no taxes yet are heavily dependent upon entitlement programs. Wall Street is the financial engine that drives our economy.
LARRY PENNER, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

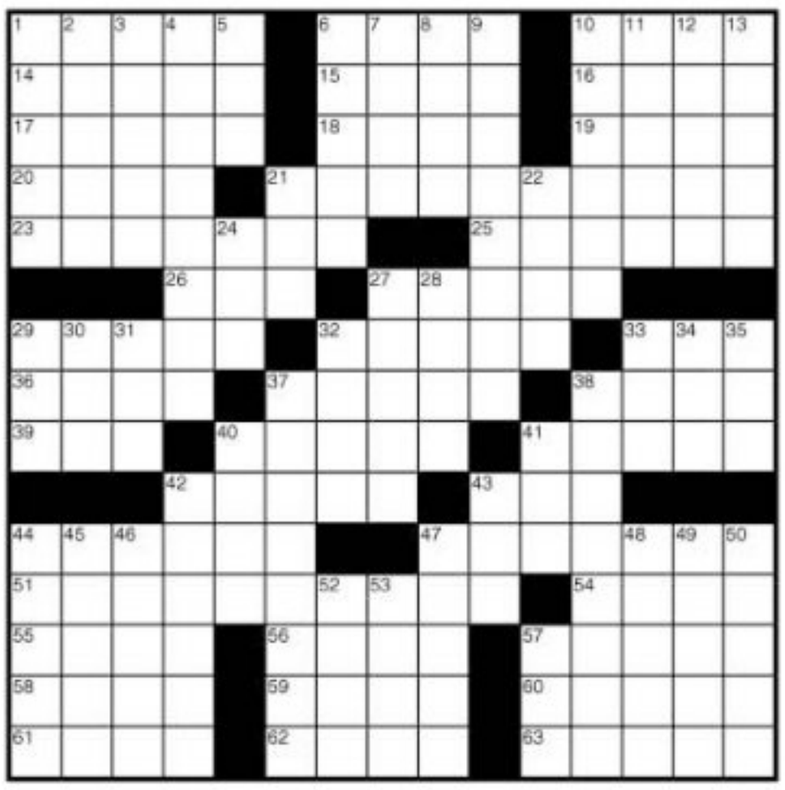
Uniform for cheers? What a disgrace!

RE: "SOMETHING I'LL NEVER FORGET": My name is Corporal Gary Grant and I served in multiple combat tours in Iraq as a U.S. Infantry Marine. I read your article in yesterday's edition of the Metro, and I felt it necessary to voice my opinion. This article validates people who are not in service taking credit for the sacrifice so many have made who actually have served. It is sickening that these false heroes actually received cheers for being in a phony uniform that they deliberately put on for that reason. I have never sought out praise nor has anyone I have served with that has actually done something worth receiving it. Merchant marines are not one of the branches of the military.
GARY GRANT, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Be careful about unthinkingly getting involved in a complicated project before you truly know all the facts. It behooves you to thoroughly check things out.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you're unable to do so yourself, it might be wise to have somebody you trust keep an eye on your spending. This isn't likely to be one of your better days for managing funds.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** The only way you're going to be productive is to make a schedule and stick to it. Tasks or projects that you leave until the last minute aren't likely to get accomplished.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You have great self-discipline when you choose to exercise it, and it behooves you to do so when it comes to certain things you know you should not eat or drink. Don't overindulge.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Be on your toes when it comes to someone in your social group who is looking for another to pay his or her way. If you're not careful, she or he is likely to take advantage of your generous nature.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Because you're usually the one who is a step ahead of everybody else, you might let your guard down. The moment you do, however, someone will shoot out in front of you.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** You're usually smart enough not to believe everything you hear, but you could easily be snookered based on some colorful information that is the product of another's vivid imagination.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Be mindful of the risks involved if you find yourself tempted to impulsively make a financial investment on something just because it sounds intriguing. Check it out first.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You'll be much more popular if you take the emphasis off of your own desires and make an effort to go along with what others want. Be a joiner.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Although our hunches can sometimes provide us with things our logic overlooks, don't think this is the case for you just because you want it to be true. Use common sense.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Think carefully before involving yourself in a joint venture being formed for either a commercial or social purpose. Know what you're getting yourself into.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** If some kind of an agreement you made hasn't lived up to what you expected, get in touch with the others involved to see if they feel the same way. Make whatever adjustments you can. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Bloodhound clues
6 Auditorium
10 Stray dog
14 Hotel employee
15 Two-piece cookie
16 Beijing's locale
17 Still in the game
18 Milwaukee loc.
19 Trails behind
20 Rinse off
21 Brit's torch
23 Sawtooth mountains
25 Fine point
26 Creepy plant?
27 Ms. Witherspoon
29 Portents
32 Party attender
33 Where tigers pace
36 Twinge
37 Invents a word
38 __, right!
39 Joule fraction
40 Feather-soft
41 Scout's rider
42 Wherewithal
43 Carbondale sch.
44 Happened to
47 Go-between
51 Vinegar (2 wds.)
54 This spot
55 Iditarod terminus
56 Be next to
57 Not infrequently
58 Brat in "Blondie"
59 Nerve network
60 Mysterious inscriptions
61 Tarot reader
62 Runners carry it
63 Leaf of grass



Down
1 Squashed circles
2 Tibet's __ Lama
3 Dull green
4 Almost worshiping
5 Sault __ Marie
6 Coyote plaints
7 Operatic tune
8 Not more
9 Monster's lake (2 wds.)
10 Ill will
11 Custom
12 Stingy
13 Mouth-watering
21 Ms. Wray of "King Kong"
22 Index
24 Winnebagos, for short
27 Totally botches
28 Count-out opener
29 Unfold, in verse
30 Do some damage
31 U.K. country
32 Bride's buy
33 Path to satori
34 Nosebag bit
35 Taunting cry
37 Freight units (2 wds.)
38 Like a teenager
40 Lox purveyor
41 Baking pan
42 Shooting star
43 Put down turf
44 Curses
45 Mademoiselle's school
46 Cherchez la __!
47 Issued a summons
48 Hartford competitor
49 Postmen have one
50 High-strung
52 "Bootnose" of hockey
53 Adorable
57 Moon or planet

				3				5
		3	5	2	6			
		1				2		
	4		9			5	1	6
9			8		4			3
1	2	7			3		9	
		2				1		
			1	9	5	4		
4				6				

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9					7			2
	1		6				4	
			4			1	7	9
		2	1	5			8	
			7		6			
	8			4	9	7		
1	6	5			4			
	9				1		3	
4			9					7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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hot tickets

M. Ward on his 'Wasteland Companion' and the people and things that inspire him

He says he never planned to write songs for a living

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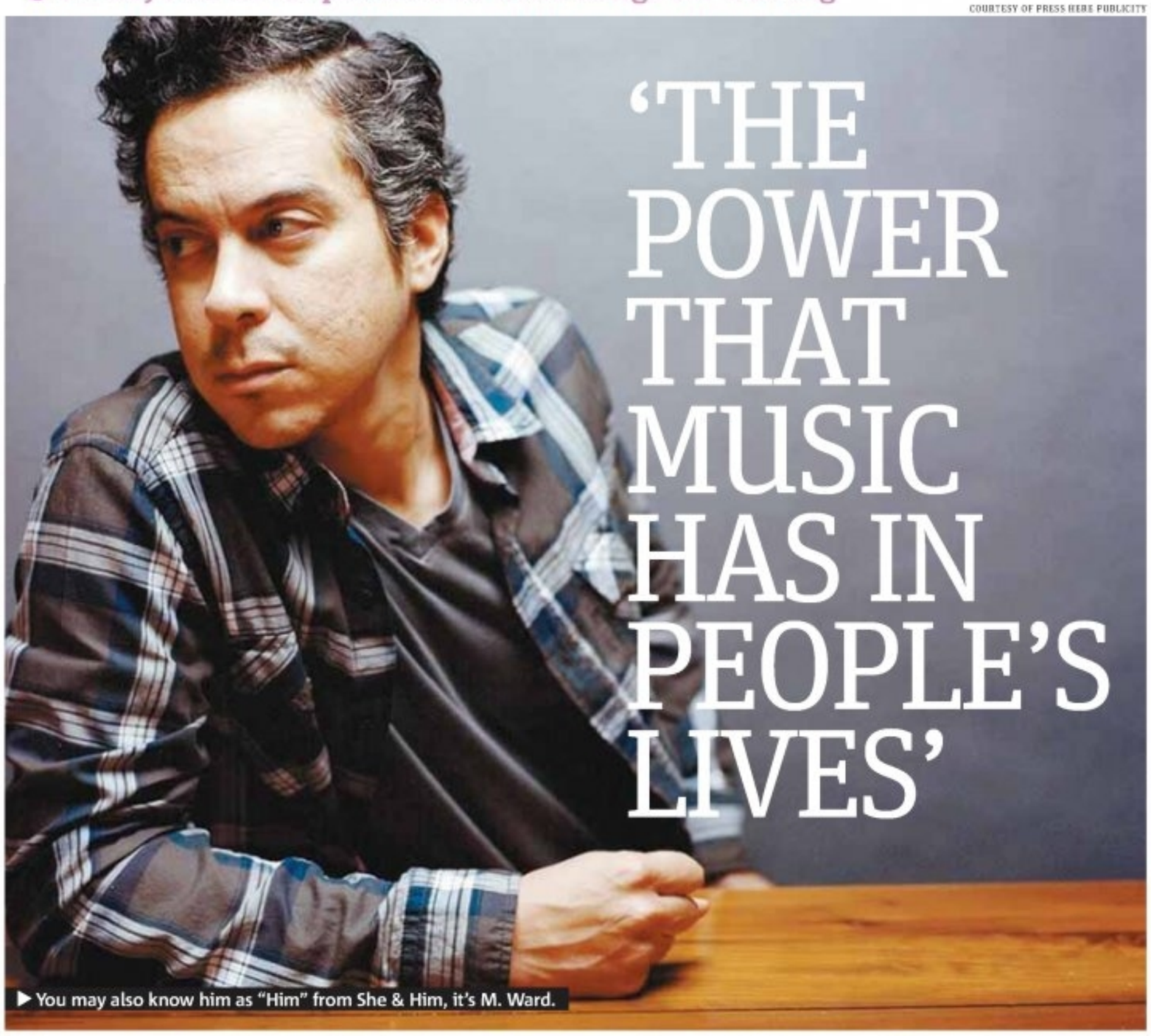

'THE POWER THAT MUSIC HAS IN PEOPLE'S LIVES'

▶ You may also know him as "Him" from She & Him, it's M. Ward.

"A Wasteland Companion" may be Matt Ward's eighth solo album under the name of M. Ward, but the singer and songwriter says getting into music was almost just a matter of being in the right place at the right time.

"I never thought out this career in writing songs," he says. "I started playing guitar since there was one sitting around in my house and learned the entire Beatles catalogue."

A couple of decades, and a lot of albums later — in addition to his solo releases he is known for his three albums with actress Zooey Deschanel, as She & Him and one with other modern indie folk stars under the humorous moniker of Monsters of Folk — Ward's warmth and spirit still shines through on "A Wasteland Companion." For Ward, it's as simple as connecting in his songs with people, regardless of who or where they are.

"I believe that music is capable of breaking all kinds of gaps," he says, "whether it's geographical, or time."

He often takes long pauses between thoughts.

"You hear a classical piece and you can feel more informed about the 19th century," he continues. "I think that it's able to bridge spiritual gaps between what happens on this planet and ... everything that surrounds it."

Spirituality aside, Ward's wasteland companion is music, through and through.

"Everyone has their own inspiration that keeps them going," he says. "I'm constantly amazed at the millions of things that people take inspiration from. For some reason, mine is the power that music has in people's lives."

CHRIS LEO PALERMINO
letters@metro.us

The companions on 'Companion'

While "Wasteland Companion" is a solo album, Ward gathers a host of his own companions on the trip through his introspective lyrics, including Deschanel as well as members from Bright Eyes and Sonic Youth.

"I love the process of introducing a new song to someone who's never heard it who also happens to be a talented musician," he says. "Getting their first take on tape is great fuel for production."

While he enjoys collaborating, he also takes inspiration from past songwriters. "Wasteland" features Louis Armstrong and Daniel Johnston cover songs.

"The song has to move you in some way," he says of his covers criteria, "the same reason that certain books or movies make you feel something."

If you go

M. Ward
with the Lee Ranaldo Band
Tuesday, May 8
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$25, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

Tickets

▶ Lovato

On sale soon

▶ **Flogging Molly**
June 15
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Shawn Colvin**
June 21
Somerville Theatre
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Demi Lovato**
with Hot Chelle Rae
July 5
Bank of America Pavilion
(On sale Saturday)

▶ **Gavin DeGraw and Colbie Caillat**
July 25
Bank of America Pavilion
(On sale Saturday)

▶ **Allman Brothers Band**
Aug. 7 and 8
Comcast Center
(On sale Monday)

▶ **System Of A Down**
with Deftones
Aug. 9
Comcast Center
(On sale Friday)

▶ **Linkin Park and Incubus**
with Mutemath
Aug. 14
Comcast Center
(On sale Saturday)

Also onstage

School of Seven Bells

Friday, 9 p.m.
Brighton Music Hall
158 Brighton Ave., Boston
$13, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com
This Brooklyn two-piece has a spacey dance-pop sound. Equal parts thick beats and ethereal atmospherics, it makes for a colorful, detached vibe, aurally equivalent to the pleasantly warped reality produced by a Holga camera (also popular in Brooklyn). If we had to explain "modern hipster music" to an alien, or, for that matter, to our moms, we'd play them this.

Back to the Garden

Tonight, 7:30
Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass.Ave., Boston

▶ Where have all the cowgirls gone? Paula Cole for one is here tonight, as part of the "Back to the Garden" performance at Berklee.

$8-$17, 617-747-2261
www.berkleebpc.com
This musical play tells the story of Joni Mitchell, whose remarkably agile voice and beautiful songs played a major role in the singer-songwriter scene of the 1970s, speaking for the exhausted passions of a burnt-out generation. Featuring a guest performance by Paula Cole (remember her?), it's a must-see for Mitchell fans, and any fans of great songwriting.

MATTHEW DINARO

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hot tickets

Breaking through

with a 'Break It Yourself' approach

Andrew Bird on the late-night TV rounds, a potential new sound and his 'solitary, antisocial leanings'

One week after Andrew Bird filmed an appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" in Los Angeles, the singer-songwriter and violinist is back home in New York with his segment due to air that night. Apart from "Saturday Night Live," Bird has done just about all the late night TV shows. "'Colbert' was a high point," he says, admitting he's a big fan of the host. He's confident that "SNL" will happen, "in due time."

And Bird is due. "Break It Yourself," an album which his bio calls his 12th album, has just been released.

"I call it my ninth album," Bird says. "It's the ninth album that's had a cycle to it. There's been a live record and soundtracks. If you count them all up, there's probably 15 or 16."

"I continue to write songs that make sense as an Andrew Bird record, but I hear things that I don't know how to pull off yet."
BIRD

That includes his pre-solo outfit Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire, which highlighted the 38-year-old's love of pre-war jazz before his singer-songwriter turn. Bird's future work, however, might take yet another musical twist.

"I continue to write songs that make sense as an Andrew Bird record, but I hear things that I don't know how to pull off yet. All I can say is what I am hearing is less pop-oriented and more devotional, or religious. Not religious in the sense of 'Jesus, I love you,'" he emphasizes. "It seems like it might be time to do something a little different."

If you go

Andrew Bird
With Patrick Watson
Sunday, 8 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
SOLD OUT

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

CAMERON WITTIG

▶ Andrew Bird doesn't have time to tend to whatever he wears around his neck.

The antisocial network

Andrew Bird is a Chicago native, but has called New York City home for almost two years. "Break It Yourself" plots his trajectory from a breakup to a new life there.

"I don't tend to write songs where there's any mention of breaking any hearts. There's a theme on the record of being self-contained, self-satisfied, I suppose. A lot of New Yorkers are experts at that. I'm puzzling through whether that's a virtue, not needing anyone else. I've got my own solitary, antisocial leanings. I'm kind of questioning those on the record."

The Queen Extravaganza: They are the champions

This is Martel. Notice how much he looks like Freddie Mercury!

Earlier this week, Metro had the chance to ask Queen drummer Roger Taylor if he'd seen the clips of Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre performing with a representation of the late Tupac Shakur at Coachella.

"I've heard a lot about those clips," he says. "I have not seen them, but I know the guys and I know the technology involved."

You can probably guess where we're going with this, Metro wonders.

"I can, I think," counters Taylor, whose most famous collaborator, Freddie Mercury died in 1991. So would Taylor and Queen's still active guitarist Brian May be open to the idea of playing with a hologram of their late lead singer?

▶ Taylor, far left, stands with Mercury, May and bassist John Deacon.

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

"I would not like to perform with a hologram of Freddie," he says definitively. "Brian and [I] looked at the possibility of putting a hologram in our show in London, 'We Will Rock You.'"

Ultimately the pair decided not to use a hologram for that production or for their latest endeavor. Instead Taylor and May are putting their efforts into the very human Queen Extravaganza, a group which includes two guitarists, a bassist, a drummer and four vocalists, all found through a three-month online audition search. One of the main singers, Marc Martel, has particularly moved Taylor, as he has been rehearsing the musicians.

"I was sitting down writing something, facing away from the stage yesterday and Mark was singing 'Bohemian Rhapsody,' and I had chills down my spine," he says. "It was as if Freddie was in the room. It was uncanny, the absolute same vocal characteristic."

That, along with the fact that Martel has an uncanny physical resemblance to Freddie Mercury sounds like enough reason not to have a projected image of the late singer on the stage.

"It just doesn't sit too well with me," says Taylor. "I don't want to appear with a hologram of my dear friend."

PAT HEALY

The Queen Extravaganza
June 11
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Nix's Mate will be your new BFF

Chef David Nevins puts a fresh spin on classic dishes Ordering the Surf 'n' Turf is an absolute must

DREA CATALANO

Nix's Mate has many more mates than this at most times.

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN
LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

It's nice to find a new pal. Nix's Mate is a revamped space in the FiDi Hilton, but chef David Nevins (Todd English's Olives, Neptune Oyster) is what makes Nix's our new best friend. Nevins reconfigures popular dishes, but he isn't about post-modern destructive deconstruction; his is more a repurposing so that the dish serves the ingredients, not the other way round.

Take Nevins' version of the now ubiquitous, often yawny Caprese salad. At Nix's, chunks of buffalo mozzarella and colorful, incredibly flavorsome heirloom tomatoes are tossed over basil-flecked arugula and salty prosciutto. Somehow, robust, toothsome hunks of tomato and cheese have more bite and taste than flat, neat slices.

The out-of-the-box thinking extends to the Spring Pea Risotto, which is topped with lobster and a pea tendril pesto, and adds another seasonal vegetable: tender spring parsnips. Parsnip? Risotto? Yes, the al dente, buttery risotto is plated around a hidden mound of creamed parsnip, which adds another perfect, sweet element to complement the protein-rich lobster and balance the dish's heartiness. It's genius.

Nix's Surf 'n' Turf will make grown men cry (with joy). This lineup of gigantic shrimp that dwarf the petite filet mignon, comforting cheddar-infused white polenta and bacon-basted green beans knocks the dish out of the park, really.

The independently owned Nix's Mate (named after a tiny Boston Harbor Island) is the Hilton's main restaurant and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and has a bar life after that. Its airy, open design and neutral color scheme comfortably straddle day and night. Nix's Mate is indeed a modern American brasserie. A fine one at that.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

Eat this:

Desserts include Inman Square haven Christina's ice cream (possibly the best) made into ice cream sandwiches with housemade cookies and sundae sauces, or paired with crisp lemon biscotti and simply garnished with blueberries and mint. Entrees: $14-$34.

If you go

Nix's Mate
89 Broad St., Boston
617-348-1234
www.nixsmate.com

TAG
theater & arts guide

MUSIC

Celebrity Series
of Boston
Jane Monheit
5/4 - Sanders Theatre
An intoxicating jazz singer with a warm and supple voice and perfect pitch, Jane Monheit has the chops to do just about anything she chooses. She sings like she knows what the song is about and has lived its story. Jane Monheit is the real deal.
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MUSIC

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Friday, May 11 @ 8PM
Sanders Theatre, Cambridge
MasterworksChorale.org
617-858-6785

THEATER

Actors' Shakespeare Project's Troilus and Cressida
by William Shakespeare
directed by Tina Packer
April 25 - May 20, 2012
The Modern Theatre at Suffolk University
866-811-4111
actorsshakespeareproject.org

EVENT

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around town

By the numbers

So what kinds of numbers have these memes racked up? Here is the approximate number of views of some of the most well known ROFLCon guests, according to YouTube.

- Austin Hall 'Daft Hands' **53,683,603**
- Matt Harding 'Where the Hell is Matt?' **42,543,334**
- Paul "Yosemite Bear" Vasquez 'Giant Double Rainbow' **33,637,855**
- Judson Laipply 'Evolution of Dance' **19,222,828**
- Chuck Testa 'Ojai Taxidermy' **11,690,236**
- Jonti Picking 'Weebl Stuff' **7,561,941**
- Matt Oswald 'Me Gusta' **7,522,420**
- Brian Manowitz 'Vegan Black Metal Chef' **1,896,397**
- Antoine Dodson 'Bedroom Intruder' **1,296,094**
- Rich Juzwiak 'I'm Not Here to Make Friends' **169,169**
- Joel Veitch 'Rathergood' **58,165**
- Laney and Sammy Griner 'Success Kid' **14,331**

He comes in rainbows — double rainbows, actually

Paul Vasquez on how the universe carries him YouTube hero is in town for ROFLCon, a convention of characters associated with Internet memes

Paul Vasquez says YouTube was made for him. Not literally, but this California nature boy, better known as Double Rainbow Guy, or Yosemite Bear, claimed his place as a top meme when his "Double Rainbow" vid, which shows Vasquez passionately extolling the beauty of a rainbow (or two, possibly three), went viral.

Vasquez, who is one of many memes appearing at MIT's ROFLCon, doesn't call himself a child of YouTube — or even MTV — though.

"I am almost 50, so it was 'Sesame Street' for me. I took to video right away. I was editing and mixing music in the '80s on videotape," Vasquez says. "Posting the vid has allowed my destiny to flow. I always knew I would be a viral video creator. I made all the steps happen. Rainbows have been coming to me for a long time and with ever-increasing frequency."

YOSEMITEBEAR

▶ "Full-on double rainbow all the way across the sky!"

It's not just rainbows chasing him now, though. After going viral, Vasquez was inundated with offers for ads, appearances, even a reality show.

"I don't go anywhere without getting stopped and recognized, asked for a pic, hug and sometimes an autograph," he adds. "I've made lots of money, but I didn't need any of it. Two weeks into it, I was in L.A. getting a lawyer [and] talent agent, [as well as] doing a reality TV show pitch and 'Jimmy Kimmel.' I was so poor I didn't have a good car, cell phone or anything, but it was like the universe was carrying me."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

If you go

ROFLCon
Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Building 26
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
www.roflcon.org

The other memes

YouTube channel Pop Spot (an offshoot of Eyejammie) is sponsoring ROFLCon 2012 and bringing a host of top-hitting memes to MIT. For those who don't know the definition, a meme is anything that has been passed around on the Internet enough that almost anybody will know the reference (a la "Double Rainbow") Besides that, there's Antoine Dodson, aka Bedroom Intruder, who Auto-Tuned a crime report; supergrowly, animal-friendly Vegan Black Metal Chef and more.

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listings

The roundup

THEATER

'Assassins'
Tomorrow through May 10
Boston University Theatre
264 Huntington Ave., Boston
$10-$12, 617-933-8600
www.bu.edu/cfa
Stephen Sondheim composed this 1990 musical about John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald, two deeply troubled but fascinating presidential murderers whose stories make for absorbing studies of the sociopathic side of the American psyche. Hopefully there's a song about why we always use all three names to refer to assassins.

'The Miracle Worker'
Through May 13
Wheelock Family Theatre
200 Riverway, Boston
$20-$30, 866-811-4111
www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org
Wheelock Family Theatre presents the story of Annie Sullivan's relationship with Helen Keller. Before Sullivan came along, Keller, born deaf and blind, was an uncontrollable child, but with Sullivan's help, she learned to communicate and make peace with her disabilities.

'The Fiddler and the Old Woman of Rumelia'
Tomorrow through Sunday
Roberts Studio Theatre
Calderwood Pavilion
527 Tremont St., Boston
Free, info@juventasmusic.com
www.juventasmusic.com
Juventas New Music Ensemble presents this brand new opera by Ketty Nez. Based on folk tales and described on the website as "a mysterious, melancholic fantasy," it tells of a fortune-telling gypsy, a dashing anti-hero and their interactions in a small village in the Rumelian countryside. As if that weren't cool enough, all four performances are free!

Music

Marcel Khalife and Al-Mayadine Ensemble
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Berklee Performance Center
136 Mass. Ave., Boston
$35-$65, 617-747-2261
www.berkleebpc.com
Khalife, pictured above, is a virtuoso on the oud, a lute-like stringed instrument. For this show, backed by a 12-piece band, he pays tribute to Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish, who once referred to Khalife as his "heart's artistic twin." Khalife will perform his musical adaptations of Darwish's prophetic verse.

DANCE

'Don Quixote'
Through Sunday
Boston Opera House
539 Washington St., Boston
$25-$132, 617-695-6955
www.bostonballet.org
Here's your last chance this season to catch the Boston Ballet perform Ludwig Minkus' version of Spanish literature's most famous book. The main character's lovably foolish antics are a timeless reminder to avoid getting stuck in the past. If he were alive today, would he be an aging hippie? No, that can't be right— hippies are pro-windmill.

MUSIC

Boston Pops
Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Symphony Hall
301 Mass. Ave., Boston
$41-$125, 888-266-1200
www.bso.org
The Pops' opening night for the season features a performance by Broadway and Hollywood star Bernadette Peters, who'll sing classic tunes like "Let Me Entertain You," "Fever" and "Some Enchanted Evening." We were hoping she'd do a duet with R2D2, who tends to show up at Pops concerts, but we've been told (repeatedly) that will not be happening. Not tonight, anyway.

COMEDY

The Nerdist Podcast
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Wilbur Theatre
246 Tremont St., Boston
$30, 800-745-3000
www.thewilburtheatre.com
This comedic podcast concerning, in its creator-host Chris Hardwick's words, "what it's really like to be a nerd," is a regular charter in the iTunes top 10, but at this stage show it will enter a realm few actual nerds ever step into: real life. Catch it now before it inevitably gets beaten up by the Jockist Podcast.

ART

Proof of Purchase
Through Sunday
Samson Gallery
450 Harrison Ave., Boston
Free, 617-357-7177
www.smfa.edu
What's in a name? It won't matter at this art sale benefitting the Museum School, because the names of the artists, some famous, some mere students, are kept secret until after you buy. Each postcard-sized piece costs $50, which means you won't be able to judge by price or size, either — only the way it strikes you.

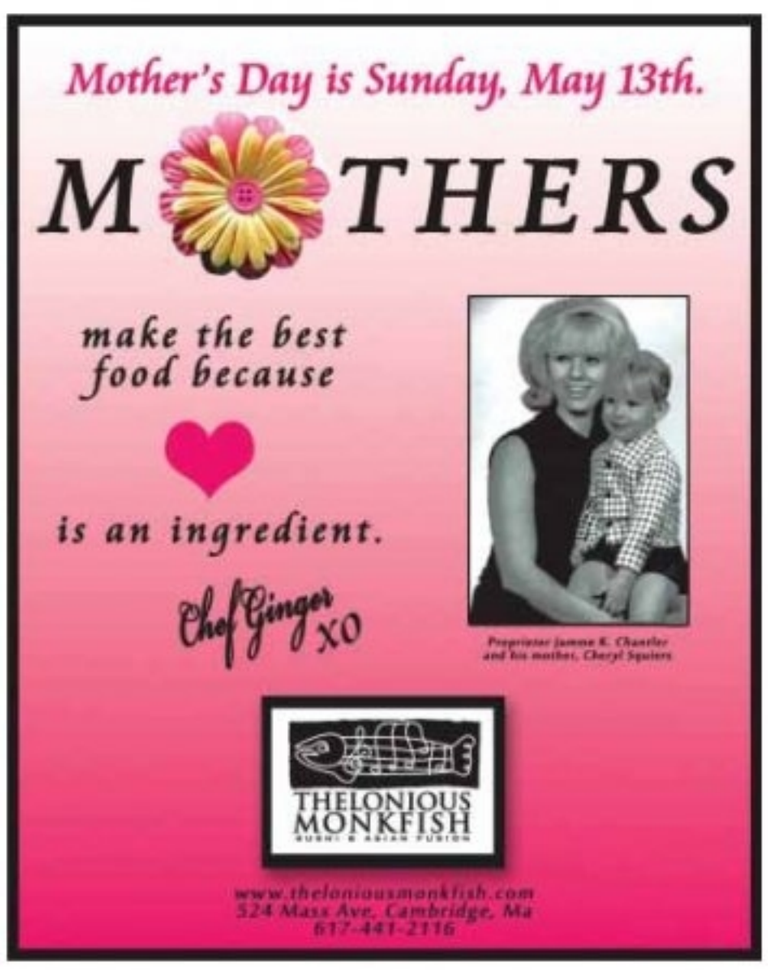
TALKS

'Dysfunctional Democracy'
Today, 8 a.m.
C. Walsh Theatre
Suffolk University
55 Temple St., Boston
Free, 617-557-2007
www.fordhallforum.org
WGBH Radio's Callie Crossley will moderate this early morning public forum with recently retired Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank, whose controversial 32-year career was practically a state institution. Frank's topic is the state of our democratic process, which he thinks is getting a little sleepy on both ends. And with no constituency to risk offending, he's bound to be franker than ever.

MATTHEW DINARO

Films

'Picadilly'
Monday, 7 p.m.
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St., Brookline
$17-$20, 617-734-2500
www.coolidge.org
This silent proto-noir film from 1929, presented here with live accompaniment by Berklee professor Sheldon Mirowitz and his film scoring students, is a delightfully seedy tale of obsession, murder and the shady nightclub scenes of the Jazz Age. Famed for its stunning cinematography and the charisma of its Chinese-American star, Anna May Wong, it's proof that silence is golden indeed.



Junior Seau, 1969-2012

The pain of life after football

Junior Seau dead at 43 Reportedly committed suicide Another former NFL star gone too soon Death coincides with repeated efforts to learn more about concussions in football

It's the topic no NFL fan, player, owner or coach wants to discuss.

It, being concussions.

Concussions, caused by years of blows to the head, are killing a startling number of guys we used to cheer for and in the process, are destroying families.

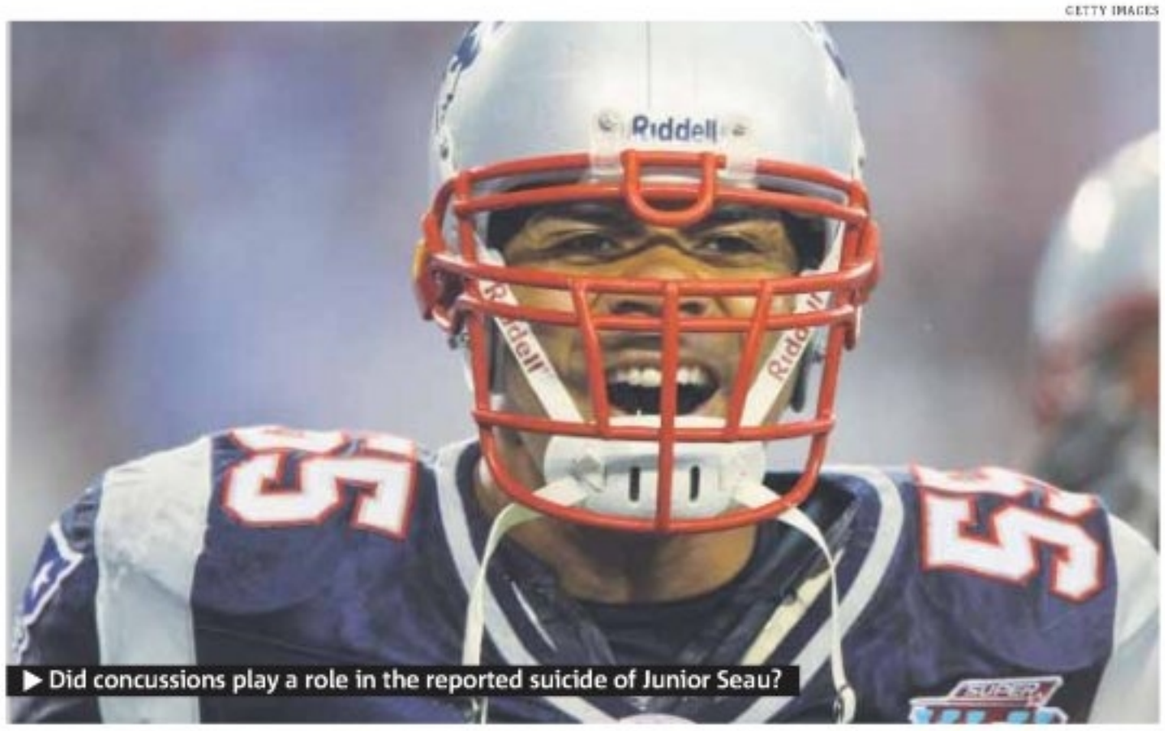
It may take quite a while to find out whether or not concussions played a role in the death of former Patriots linebacker and NFL legend Junior Seau, who reportedly took his own life yesterday in Oceanside, Calif., by shooting himself in the chest.

But in the short term, Seau's death with give a very noticeable face to a cause which has gone largely unnoticed or ignored by NFL fans.

There have been lawsuits and endless stories regarding this topic over the past few years and, in the NFL's defense, the league has responded. They have started to penalize big hits with large fines and frequent flags. They are giving $88,000 a year to retirees with dementia.

Indeed, tomorrow's NFL retirees will be in a better spot than their predecessors. But no matter how big the fines get or how more protective the helmets get, there are sure to be more cases like Seau's.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Did concussions play a role in the reported suicide of Junior Seau?

Goodbye, Junior

A look at the career of the late Junior Seau:

- 12-time Pro Bowler
- 6-time first team All-Pro
- 243 games started (10th all-time)
- 1994 Walter Payton Man of the Year award recipient

MATT BURKE
matthew.burke@metro.us

Former Harvard football player Chris Nowinski founded the Sports Legacy Institute, which is a nonprofit organization that dedicates itself to solving the concussion crisis in sports. He is also a co-director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University School of Medicine. Nowinski has been at the forefront of a group of scientists who collect former athlete's brains after they die.

The most interesting study done by Nowinski may have been conducted on former professional wrestler Chris Benoit. In 2007, Benoit strangled his wife Nancy to death and suffocated and killed his 7-year-old son Daniel before taking his own life in their Atlanta home.

Nowinski later called Benoit's father, Mike, and asked for Chris' brain. Studies on the brain found that Benoit had the brain of an 85-year-old Alzheimer's patient caused by nearly two decades worth of untreated concussions due to blows to the head. Those studies found that repeated concussions can lead to dementia, which in turn can contribute to the strangest of behavioral problems.

In October 2010, Seau drove his Cadillac Escalade off a highway in Carlsbad, Calif., and he and his car tumbled 30 feet down a small cliff. Seau claimed he fell asleep at the wheel, though hours earlier he had been arrested for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend.

Former Chicago Bears safety Dave Duerson committed suicide a year ago, shooting himself in the chest as opposed to the head. Duerson had previously made arrangements to donate his brain to the study at BU. The study later stated that the damage done to Duerson's brain "affected his judgment, inhibition, impulse control, mood and memory."

Quoted

"Depression & suicide are serious matters and we as current and former NFL players should demand better treatment."
EMMITT SMITH ON TWITTER

In the news

Gaffney back with Patriots
Wide receiver Jabar Gaffney is reportedly ready to sign a two-year deal with the Patriots. Gaffney played for New England from 2006 to 2008 and is a favorite of Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels.

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Fantasy sports

ADAM LEVITAN
ALEVITAN@METRO.US

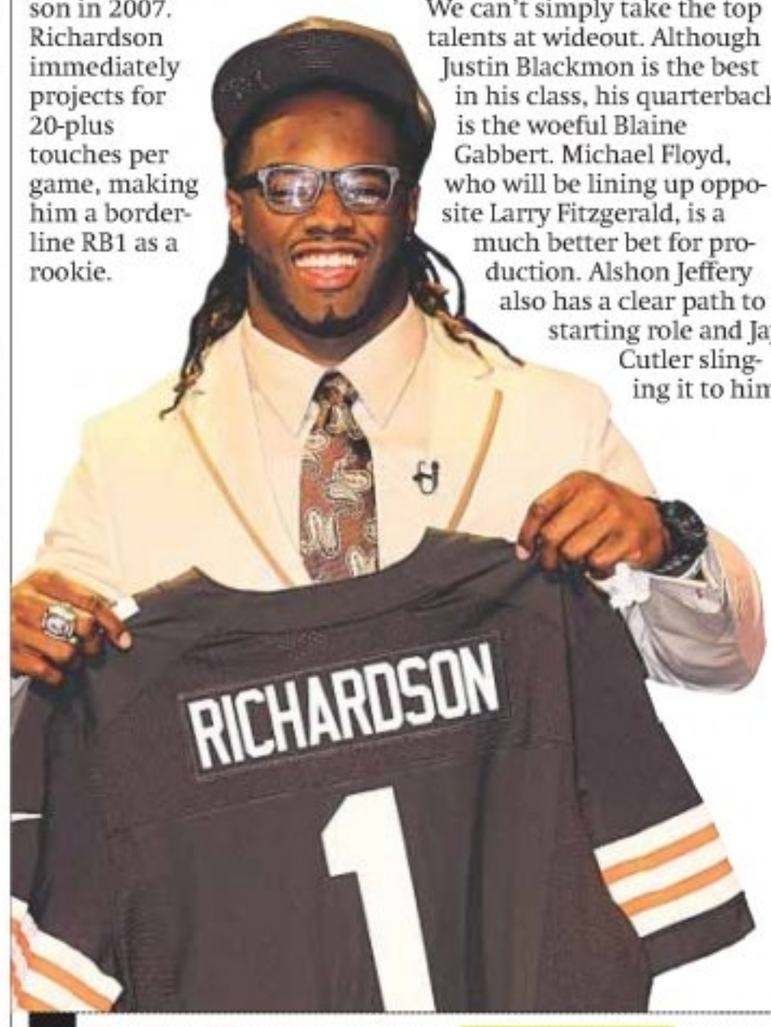
IMPACT ROOKIES

We're naturally attracted to the unknown. Aliens, JFK's assassination and the afterlife all get our juices going. And so do NFL rookies.

Since we can't be certain about how a player's skill level will translate to the NFL, the possibility remains that he could be great. Here's some of the rookies drafted last week that we should be excited about.

Brown Bag

As the NFL tilts more toward the pass and running back committees, feature backs are becoming increasingly rare. But don't tell the Browns that. They traded up to No. 3 overall to ensure that they snagged Trent Richardson, the best running back prospect since Adrian Peterson in 2007. Richardson immediately projects for 20-plus touches per game, making him a borderline RB1 as a rookie.



Better Buc

Everyone has heard of Richardson because he played at Alabama. But Doug Martin has a chance to be almost as good, even though he is a Boise State product. Martin is a classy all-around back that has drawn comparisons to Ray Rice. He'll easily move past LeGarrette Blount on the depth chart and fit nicely with Josh Freeman's checkdown style.

Arms race

Andrew Luck projects as an All-Pro quarterback down the line. But as a rookie, Robert Griffin III will be more valuable to fantasy owners. His weapons are better, his scheme fits better and he runs much better. RG3 is a good bet to finish among the top-12 fantasy quarterbacks in 2012.

Hands team

We can't simply take the top talents at wideout. Although Justin Blackmon is the best in his class, his quarterback is the woeful Blaine Gabbert. Michael Floyd, who will be lining up opposite Larry Fitzgerald, is a much better bet for production. Alshon Jeffery also has a clear path to a starting role and Jay Cutler slinging it to him.

NFL losers

These veterans took major hits in value thanks to last week's draft:

1 **LeGarrette Blount, RB, TB —** Frankly, Doug Martin is a better player than Blount. He'll be reduced to a backup pounder at best.

2 **Ahmad Bradshaw, RB, NYG —** The Giants used a first-round pick on David Wilson, an explosive playmaking back. They know Bradshaw's wheels are creaky.

3 **Mike Thomas, WR, JAC —** Justin Blackmon and Laurent Robinson are the starters in Jacksonville.

4.47

Coby Fleener's 40-yard dash time. The elite pass-catching TE wil be reunited with Andrew Luck in Indy.

NFL news

Best's head

Jahvid Best, whose 2011 season was ended by concussions, is expected to be fully cleared in June. The Lions didn't use a draft pick on a running back, which is a sign they're confident in Best's health. High risk, high reward.

Top MLB pickups

Allen Craig

2B, Cardinals
Craig is finally off the DL and has eligibility at 1B, 2B and OF. Remember that he hit .315 with 11 homers in just 75 games with the Cards last year. Craig also boasts a career .924 OPS in Triple-A.

Scott Downs

RP, Angels
Jordan Walden had an 8.31 ERA through his first six appearances, so he's out as closer for an undetermined amount of time. If Downs can string together saves, he could run with the gig.

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Notices

Mulu Legecha Haile

Was born on 12th September 1953 in Gonder, Ethiopia. In his early years Mr. Haile was a diligent student, and in 1976 he joined the Ethiopian Democratic Union. In 1986, Mulu Haile left with his family to the United States to pursue a better future. Later he became one of the founding members of the Gonder Development & Cooperation Organization (GDCO), a non-profit organization that provides help to the Ethiopian community.
Mulu Haile passed away early morning on Sunday, April 22nd. His legacy as a passionate father, loving husband, and community leader, will be forever remembered.
He is survived by his wife, Tsehay Chufa, and his seven children: Almaz, Goesh, Mekedes, Aregash, Rahel, Elsa, and Adam.

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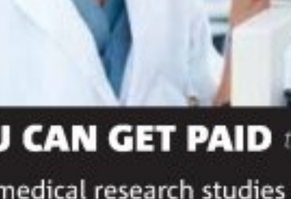

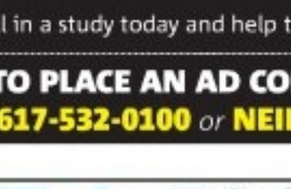

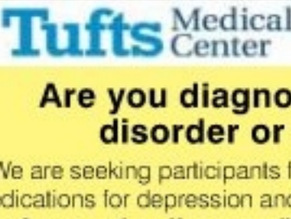

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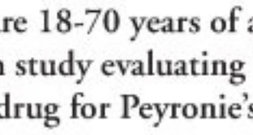

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